AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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- 1. (Original). An isolated polypeptide comprising a suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS) sequence and a membrane translocation sequence.
- 2. (Original). The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.
- 3. (Original). An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a SOCS sequence and a membrane translocation sequence.
- 4. (Original). The isolated nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein the isolated nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.
- 5. (Original). The isolated nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein the isolated nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:11.
- 6. (Original). A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 3.
- 7. (Original). A cell containing the vector of claim 6.
- 8. (Original). The composition of claim 1, wherein the membrane translocation sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:2.
- 9. (Original). The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a purification sequence.
- 10. (Original). The polypeptide of claim 9, wherein the purification sequence is polyhistidine tag.
- 11. (Original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.
- 12. (Original). A method comprising: administering the polypeptide of claim 1 to a subject.
- 13. (Original). The method of claim 12, wherein the subject is a subject with inflammation or at risk for inflammation.
- 14. (Original). The method of claim 13, wherein the severity of inflammation of the subject is reduced.
- 15. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 14, wherein the severity of inflammation in obesity, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, and metabolic syndrome is reduced.

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16. (Original). The method of claim 13, wherein the inflammation is associated with an infection.

- 17. (Original). The method of claim 16, wherein the infection is a viral infection.
- 18. (Original). The method of claim 16, wherein the infection is a bacterial infection.
- 19. (Original). The method of claim 18, wherein the bacterial infection is a staphylococcus enterotoxin B infection.
- 20. (Original). The method of claim 13, wherein the severity of inflammation in the subject is reduced.
- 21. (Original). The method of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide is administered to the subject prior to or after surgery.
- 22. (Original). The method of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide is administered to the subject prior to or after contact with an infectious biological weapon.
- 23. (Original). A method of comprising administering the polypeptide of claim 1 to a biological system.
- 24. (Original). The method of claim 23, wherein the biological system is an inflamed biological system or a biological system at risk for inflammation.
- 25. (Original). The method of claim 23, wherein the severity of inflammation of the biological system is reduced.
- 26. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 25, wherein the severity of inflammation in obesity, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, and metabolic syndrome is reduced.
- 27. (Original). A method of inhibiting a cytokine-induced response in a cell, comprising administering to the cell a complex comprising the polypeptide of claim 1.
- 28. (Original). A method of inhibiting a cytokine-induced response in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a complex comprising the polypeptide of claim 1.
- 29. (Withdrawn). A method comprising administering to a subject polypeptide comprising a mutated SOCS sequence, wherein the mutated SOCS sequence lacks or has a reduced suppressor of cytokine signaling function.
- 30. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 29, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a membrane translocation sequence.

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31. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a purification sequence.

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